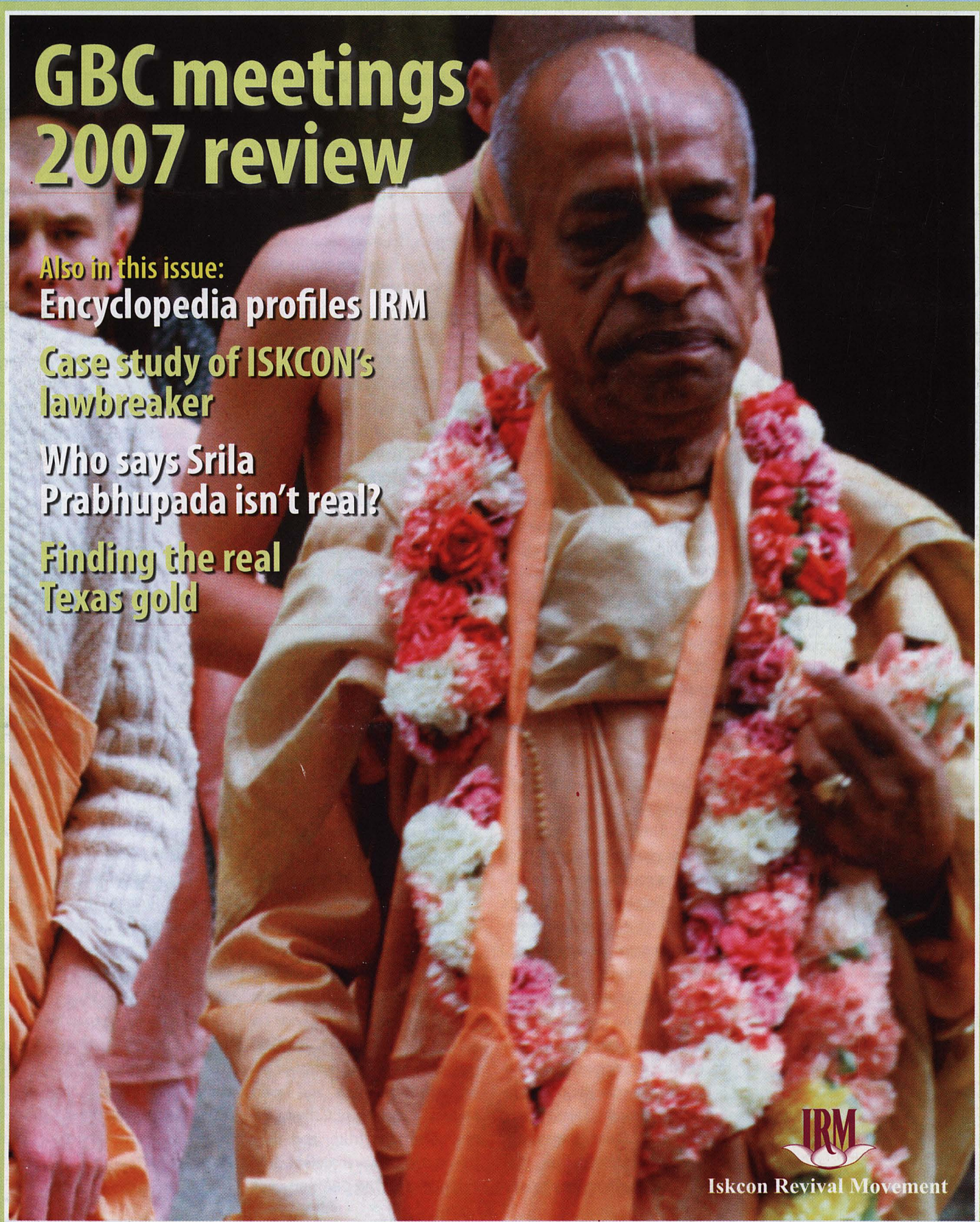
BACK TO PRABHUPADA

The magazine of the real Hare Krishna movement

Issue 16, Summer 2007

"Defeating tyranny in the realm of thought"

www.iskconirm.com



GBC meetings 2007 review

Also in this issue:

Encyclopedia profiles IRM

Case study of ISKCON's lawbreaker

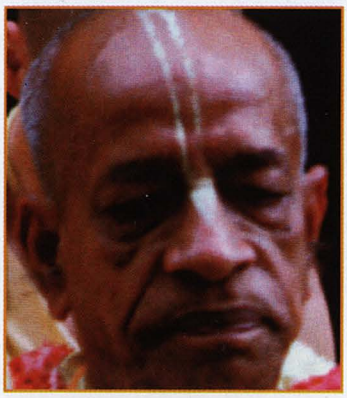
Who says Srila Prabhupada isn't real?

Finding the real Texas gold

IRM

Iskcon Revival Movement

Whose movement is it anyway?



BACK TO PRABHUPADA
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Welcome to Issue 16 of *Back to Prabhupada (BTP)*. In this issue, we are pleased to report on the increasing recognition given to the IRM by the world's academia as the voice of reform and revival in ISKCON. Please see our item on page 15, "IRM profiled in Encyclopedia".

Some leaders in ISKCON have proposed that the IRM and ISKCON should simply "agree to disagree" and go their separate ways. In particular, they take offence that we are "targeting their members" and "their programs" etc. We should not "disturb their preaching" and try to "steal their people" they say. Why can't we just leave them alone, and just do our own separate preaching?

Such a question, however, simply begs the question as to WHO the ISKCON movement belongs to. If, in fact, we are indeed dealing with members and programs that rightly belong to the current leadership of ISKCON, then such a request is indeed reasonable. The reality, however, is painfully different. Let us begin with some undisputed facts:

1. People are primarily attracted to ISKCON because of Srila Prabhupada's teachings and Srila Prabhupada himself, and participate in its programs only because they were introduced by Srila Prabhupada.

2. Therefore, everything which goes on today in the name of Krishna consciousness (whether it be Deity worship, festivals, *prasadam* distribution, preaching, *Harinama sankirtan* etc.) was all given to us solely by Srila Prabhupada. Whilst he was physically present on the planet, Srila Prabhupada allowed us to take part in these programs on his behalf, since the sole aim of engaging in these programs was to bring people to Srila Prabhupada's lotus feet as his disciples. Thus, they would be given a chance to perform devotional service to Lord Krishna through His bona fide, authorised and empowered representative.

3. And there was to be no change to this program after Srila Prabhupada's physical departure, but today these programs are now performed not to bring everyone to Srila Prabhupada's lotus feet as happened previously, but to the feet of one of ISKCON's 70 impostor gurus.

Therefore, everything ISKCON possesses, its members, its functions, its assets etc, all belong to Srila Prabhupada. No Srila Prabhupada, no ISKCON. Given these facts, let us now re-visit the original request made of the IRM by some ISKCON leaders. The request now actually becomes:

"Can you stop targeting Srila Prabhupada's festivals and Srila Prabhupada's devotees, and leave us alone to steal them for ourselves?"

In other words, the request gets turned completely on its head. Those who have actually usurped Srila Prabhupada's assets are asking us to not take them back for Srila Prabhupada, on the plea that we are stealing from them!

The issue basically, therefore, is not whether or not we have a "right" to preach at ISKCON functions and to ISKCON people, but whether people in ISKCON have a right to know whether or not, in fact, they are following Srila Prabhupada.

So are we going to go away and leave the usurpers to continue cheating in the name of Srila Prabhupada unchallenged, thus handing them what they want on a plate? Not a chance! The GBC may continue their tactics of intimidation, banning and even physical violence, but they cannot defeat the truth, and they can certainly never defeat Srila Prabhupada! The GBC's attempt to "kill guru and become guru" (please see back page), or enjoying the spiritual master's property without the spiritual master, is just another attempt at having the kingdom of God without God - and we all know where such a foolish and futile attempt ends:

"'You people, you want kingdom of God without God.' That is our policy—Ravana's policy. Ravana's policy was kingdom of God without God. [...] What was the result? That everything became vanquished. Whole Ravana's kingdom with his family, with his everything, finished."

(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, May 24th, 1969)

And this is exactly what is happening. We have already chronicled ISKCON's own leaders stating how the movement is disintegrating (please also see back page). And now it seems that even ISKCON's leaders themselves are disintegrating, for HH Sacinandana Swami, a voted-in GBC guru, has recently announced that he will be temporarily "retiring" from active guru duties due to ill-health, and that this breakdown seems to be affecting more and more of his colleagues:

"My critical health situation is nothing unique. Several of my Godbrothers are in similar or even worse situations. Some have died early deaths, whereas others battle chronic illness."

(HH Sacinandana Swami, 'Leave of absence letter', April 23rd, 2007)

So we should not allow materialistic Ravanas to use Srila Prabhupada's name to steal Srila Prabhupada's assets. **JOIN THE IRM AND GIVE ISKCON BACK TO SRILA PRABHUPADA.**

Please feel free to write to me at the following address if you have any questions, criticisms or comments: irm@iskconirm.com.

Thank you and Hare Krishna.

Yours in the service of Srila Prabhupada,

Krishnakant

Letters to the editor

"*We love* Back to Prabhupada *magazine and appreciate all that you are trying to do.*"

- Don Gwillim, Administrator, Christian Vegetarian Association UK

"I am much nearer to the truth - thank you."

- Brother Shem, London, England

"I am a life member of ISKCON for over 25 years. The movement is very dear to me and I am interested in all its activities because I firmly believe that the movement is the sole salvation of the present dwindling society. It is our duty to help keep this movement healthy, and protect its name and reputation which it enjoyed during the lifetime of Srila Prabhupada.

This morning I came across the Special Summary Issue of the magazine BACK TO PRABHUPADA *which a Krishna* bhakta *was holding, and I had the occasion of just casting a glance over the different articles found therein. I understand that you want, by your present action, help to apply the recommendations of Srila Prabhupada regarding initiation of devotees and recognition of Prabhupada as our guru. Your action is a laudable one and is meant to get rid of the malpractices that are now negatively affecting ISKCON.*

Do find here, dear Prabhuji, *my anticipated thanks. I wish you plenty of success in your undertaking. May Almighty Krishna help you and guide you on the right path. Your servant "*

- Chandra Shekhar Dass, Mauritius

"BTP12 *is superexcellent, as always. You are indeed doing the service of Guru and Krishna. This is REAL preaching! I thank you so much and support and glorify all your efforts to restore Prabhupada back to His place as Guru of Iskcon."*

- Tim Croft, Kentucky, USA

"Today I read BTP12 *from beginning till end and want to thank Krishnakant and Yaduraja Das and of course all the members of IRM for their combined effort of putting Srila Prabhupada back where he belongs - right into the centre of his ISKCON movement! It is greatly encouraging to read in* BTP12 *about Srila Prabhupada's dedicated followers that the ISKCON REVIVAL MOVEMENT is spreading rapidly all over the world, and more and more people are gradually finding out that it is only Srila Prabhupada whom we should worship as our guide in understanding the Supreme Lord Sri Krishna. For me it is of great sadness to see Srila Prabhupada's movement all over Europe almost destroyed by some unscrupulous people who illegitimately pose as Srila Prabhupada's successors. Although many already gave up hope, we have to keep faith in Srila Prabhupada that by his teachings Lord Sri Chaitanya's* sankirtan *movement will finally spread in every town and village and will benefit humanity to fullfil the ultimate purpose in life of becoming Krishna conscious."*

- Jatayu Das, Vienna, Austria

"Just received the usually outstanding magazines. We are so grateful that you do this service to put the honest perspective on the news of what is going on with everyone. We live out in the forest on 30 acres and being connected this way with all the information is empowering. Thank you again for the informative magazine; we would not know these things otherwise."

- Nrsimha Dasi, Mississippi, USA

"In my view, after H.D.G. Srila Prabhupada, so-called 'gurus' have made ISKCON a professional company in India, whereas H.D.G. Srila Prabhupada's knowledge and teachings are really auspicious and every man has to follow his path."

- M.K. Maharaja (press reporter), Jammu and Kashmir, India

"To The Editor. Sir, I am very much impressed by your Back to Prabhupada *magazine. After reading this I realized that Prabhupada was the only devotee who had given us the guidance, but presently we have deviated from the path. The people who are giving us the teachings, they are deviating us."*

- Nimai Misra, Lucknow, India

"I would like to know the truth."

- K.S. Gibbons, Dorset, England

"I am very grateful to all you devotees and I really hope and pray you find more and more devotees and help us build our lives through your help."

- Keshav N. Sorathia, Middlesex, England

"I think this is the best way ever done."

- Kishor Dhakate, Manipur, India

"I am very much interested to know the truth and realise the self. Please show me the right path to attain the right and essential thing in my life. Thanking you."

- Sri Rangacharya, Bangalore, India

"Dear Sir, I am devoted to Srila Prabhupada and I am blessed by him. I want to know the truth and hence participate in IRM."

- Amit, Chennai, India

*"*BTP *is really an enlightening magazine. Encourages worship of Sri Krishna through Srila Prabhupada."*

- Anantha Padmanabhacharya, Bangalore, India

"Dear Krishnakant, I say this to the GBC: "Come back to the IRM, back to Prabhupada. Hare Krishna."

- R.R. Ori, Durban, South Africa

"Thanks for sending BTP, *I am learning a lot of things about ISKCON. If possible, please send the copy of* The Final Order. *Hare Krishna."*

- Chaitanya S., Harayana, India

"Interested to know Srila Prabhupada's real preaching."

- P. Karnan, Perak, Malaysia

"I greatly appreciate what you are doing for defending Prabhupada's mission against these rascals."

- Aidan Diaz, New York, USA

"I would like to participate in the revival and spread ISKCON globally."

- Srinivas Kolluri, Georgia, USA

"Your magazine brings me joy!"

- Benjamin K. Osey, Akosombo, Ghana

"Hare Krsna! I received the copy of BTP *- thanks for your wonderful service. Thank you so much for sending me* The Final Order. *This book indeed enlightened me well. Srila Prabhupada can take us back to Krishna. Most importantly here is a platform for truth and reality."*

- Jayanthi Aipperumal, Kulim, Malaysia

"I am really interested about the matter. Here in Mexico many devotees have lost their faith in the GBC, because they do not help in the way we expect."

- Ambarisa Das, Mexico City, Mexico

"Thank you so much for a wonderful magazine. I read all of each issue and use it to learn more about the real movement Srila Prabhupada wanted. All glories to your services and I hope this finds you well and peaceful in your service."

- Sarana Devi Dasi, New York, USA

"By sending this 'eye-opener' IRM magazine worldwide, you're doing a great service to Srila Prabhupada and Lord Krishna. I am ready to help you in any way. Thank you for this great magazine!! Hare Krishna."

- Madhusudan BK, Bangalore, India

"Thank you very much!"

- Isvara Devi Dasi, Firenze, Italy

"Please subscribe me to the BTP *magazine. Many eye-openers are available in this magazine. I would like to know more."*

- Ajai Verma, Lucknow, India

"The magazine I have gone through contains a lot of interesting information. Therefore I would like to have more information."

- Vijay Pratap, New Delhi, India

"Please advise me about making a contribution to BTP. *I want to contribute some money for it."*

- P.S. Lal, Bangalore, India

Letters to the editor (continued from page 3)

"I want ISKCON to be run as per Srila Prabhupada's instructions. IRM is really doing great work in this regard. I support all your efforts and works."

- Shivayogi Gandhad, Karnataka, India

"Thank you very much."

- A. Sherman, Bristol, England

"ISKCON should be reformed."

- Gunalan Krishnan, Seremban, Malaysia

"Please mail me your issues regularly. It would be nice to see the good work you are doing."

- Ashish Mittal, Bangalore, India

"Please keep up the good work, Srila Prabhupada will surely be pleased with your efforts in restoring his mission."

- Dr. Himatlal Parmar, Port Elizabeth, South Africa

"Now we shall know the knowledge of Srila Prabhupada and Hare Krishna Movement in real form."

- Librarian President, Dwaraka Sarvajnik Library, Dwarka, India

"I am very satisfied with your wonderful service. Jaya *Srila Prabhupada!"*

- Mr Madavan, Klang, Malaysia

"As per Srila Prabhupada's recorded conversations it is crystal clear that the eleven secretaries would behave untowardly. Hence, he did not give authorisation in writing for them to act as Gurus or Acharyas. *Whatever happened had to happen. Nothing is surprising in the age of Kali. Lord Krishna according to His* Bhagavad-Gita *teaches how to always remember Him and get out of the cycle of birth and death. May the blessing of Lord Krishna be with the management of IRM."*

- Mrs Sookhadah Permalloo, Mauritius

"Keep up the great work, best wishes!"

- Larry Freeman, Los Angeles, USA

"I like your magazine. I have got lots of realisation about ISKCON. I am a member of ISKCON for over 25 years now. Hare Krishna."

- Narasimha Nanda, Guyana, South America

*"The only ISKCON Guru is Srila Prabhupada. I also would like*The Final Order *book."*

- Pradip Das, Gandaki, Nepal

"Highly eager to know the solutions to all this ISKCON guru confusion. It may help me to rub off the disappointment that has been created in my mind by the so called guru confusions."

- Narayanara, Kerala, India

"Hare Krishna. Srila Prabhupada will be delighted with this magazine, because it gives complete information and the truth. Haribol!*"*

- Pradeep Bashal Bhaiya, Klang, Malaysia

"I have read the magazine Back to Prabhupada. *I like it and I want to know more about truth."*

- Mohit Aggarwal, New Delhi, India

"First of all thank you very much for sending the magazine copies. Try to keep up the standards of writing and solutions to those problems, which are temporary, by nature. Haribol!*"*

- Manash De, Assam, India

"I really like your idea -Back to Prabhupada! Haribol!*"*

- Candra Pati Das, Zalec, Slovenia

"I am very grateful for this information, I also have much information from my experiences and visions with Srila Prabhupada. When my situation is more situated send me an address to forward a donation for your movement."

- Latika Devi Dasi, British Columbia, Canada

"You are doing very important service."

- Sudarshan Vaman, Karnataka, India

"I have read one or two of your issues and I find them really smashing. Please send me your esteemed magazine regularly and also include all past editions as I don't want to miss anything. Trying to serve Srila Prabhupada."

- Kamal Lohia, Haryana, India

"Dear Krishnakant, make no mistake, your BTPs *when sent to any real devotee pack a wallop. The pictures of Srila Prabhupada and his direct quotes can defeat any bogus arguments and bogus gurus. However, I have personally seen that politically and materially ambitious persons will not hesitate to accept a bogus guru in a second, and begin to blaspheme Srila Prabhupada.* BTP *is a powerful and feared tool, it is like the sun which can clean a contaminated place!"*

- Srimaya Das, Suratthani, Thailand

"Very nice and inspiring. I also left ISKCON, I am joining you guys. I am a Bengali Vaisnava with full faith and conviction. Srila Prabhupada is really pleased with you wonderful devotees."

- Kishore Mungroo, Mauritius

"I have felt for some time now that something was really wrong with ISKCON. Like many devotees, I started doubting the real significance of ISKCON. The only solution is to get 'Back to Prabhupada'!!!

- Khedan Sobee, Mauritius

*"*BTP *is very enlightening."*

- Venugopal Govinden, Mauritius

"Interesting to know the truth. Well done, keep it up."

- Kumar Krishna, Mauritius

"Thank you for keeping us informed about ISKCON."

- Manoj B Nunkoo, Mauritius

"Looks like a great publication. Much of the current ISKCON administration seems to be corrupt or even downright evil. I hope you can expose any misdeeds! Hare Krishna! Jaya *Prabhupada!"*

- David Jackson, Illinois, USA

"Prabhupada's ISKCON is pure and divine. IRM is doing a great job, reviving the truth and unmasking those position seekers under the strength of Jagat-Guru, Karunanika, *His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada."*

- Canhye Dhineshwarnath, Mauritius

"You are doing a perfect service to both the Guru - Srila Prabhupada - and to the Supreme Lord Sri Krishna. May Shri Krishna keep on bestowing His mercy on you all and grant us strength to continue with this service -Hari Bol! *Please send me a copy of the book:* The Final Order. *Thanks."*

- Pandit G.P. Sharma, Mauritius

*"Please send library copy that all can read, and people can come to Pune and change to Krishna consciousness and to the real movement which Srila Prabhupada has given. You can print this message in*BTP. *I may not open my mouth to my seniors but I can before Srila Prabhupada, my real guru."*

- D. Misra, Sinhagad College of Engineering, Pune, India

"I have learned, "Before you become Krishna conscious devotee, you should become Srila *Prabhupada conscious." It's Srila Prabhupada who will show Krishna, otherwise how can we recognise Krishna? His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada* ki jaya!*"*

- Govinda Das, Mauritius

"I would like to know anything in relation to ISKCON of Srila Prabhupada. Thank you for informing about the situation in ISKCON and I pray to Krishna to enlighten the present 'gurus' to follow Srila Prabhupada's instruction. Haribol.*"*

- Sita Ramnundun, Mauritius

"It is very important to stress the importance of rescuing in his fullness Srila Prabhupada as the centre to connect to us to Krishna in all his aspects. Thank you very much. Hare Krishna."

- Alexis Raul Salazar Lopez, Caracas, Venezuela

"I enjoy reading Back to Prabhupada*! It keeps me in touch with Krishna!* Haribol!*"*

- Colin Lowson, The Hague, Netherlands

*"I was happy to receive issue no. 13 of*BTP *yesterday, thank you so much! I am so happy to be able to read this great magazine. I hope that the truth will conquer the false guru-ISKCON very soon."*

- Mikael Sjödin, Sundsvall, Sweden

GBC meetings 2007 review

The annual GBC Resolutions have this year been deliberately restricted:

"You will find there are much fewer resolutions this year than in the past. There are only fourteen, and even some of those are routine decisions, such as when the next meeting will be in Mayapura. Devotees (including GBC members) have been telling us for years that rather than coming out with numerous resolutions that many don't even read, better to concentrate on key areas to best serve Srila Prabhupada's society."

(Statement of GBC Chairman, HH Bhanu Swami, April 14th, 2007)

Though the reason given is because devotees do not read the resolutions, we suspect the real reason is because the IRM *do* read them, and subsequently demonstrate every year how they are full of hilarity and contradiction. However, restricting the resolutions will not deter us, since we still have the detailed daily GBC meetings reports to go on!

One dimensional movement

"Just one-third of the temples distribute books; two-thirds don't do much. […] This year at the Gaura Purnima festival in Mayapur, two thirds of the registered guests are from Russia."
(GBC, Monday February 5th, 2007)

The situation is actually worse, since according to the *World Sankirtan Newsletter,* over 50% of the books are distributed in just one country, India.

And we can see that the international gathering of devotees which Srila Prabhupada envisioned every year at Mayapura is now really just a gathering of Russians and local Indians.



Still figuring it out

"During the morning session, eight proposals were discussed and voted on:
1) Correcting a Misspelling in the Gayatri Mantra Sheet […]
4) Clarifying Standards for Srila Prabhupada's Worship […]
7) Kirtan Standards in ISKCON "
(GBC, Tuesday February 6th, 2007)

So after 30 years, they still ain't figured out the exact *Gayatri Mantra*, how to worship Srila Prabhupada or how to have a proper *kirtan*, yet they expect us to believe that the whole guru thing they have got completely right!

Giving Srila Prabhupada yet another meaningless position

"He defended a phrase describing Srila Prabhupada as "the soul of ISKCON" because it says something that is hard to say in other language. It does not go off into heresy, he said. Prabhupada should be all-pervading within ISKCON like the indwelling Supersoul."
(GBC, Wednesday February 7th, 2007)

So Srila Prabhupada is now like the "holy ghost", incommunicado, inaccessible and unobtainable, but always theoretically present. This allows the "gurus" to continue demanding that they are accepted as "living physical" substitutes for Srila Prabhupada with the cushion of letting everyone feel that Srila Prabhupada is still in the picture. How convenient!

We work very fast

"Praghosa Dasa Prabhu introduced the presentation by saying that last year the GBC left off with the Sri Mayapur Project Development Committee (SMPDC) doing a feasibility study on building the temple where the park is now. Today the GBC received its report."
(GBC, Saturday February 10th, 2007)

Over 30 years after Srila Prabhupada laid the foundation stone for the Mayapur temple, they are still spending 1 year just to "study" where the temple should be!

Origami yoga

"We were given a piece of paper and asked by the group leader to close our eyes and keep them closed until told we could open them. Then, we were told to follow instructions, keeping our eyes closed. The instructions involved folding the paper and tearing different corners. Then, we were told to open our eyes and open our pieces of paper and observe any differences in the results."
(GBC, Sunday February 11th, 2007)

Maybe the tearing of the paper by the GBC members symbolized how they are tearing up Srila Prabhupada's beloved ISKCON?

The bravery of the GBC in a time of crisis

"Ajit Prabhu, the temple president in Imphal, said that the bombing last fall had killed six people and injured fifty, some of whom are still hospitalized. He commented that because no ISKCON leaders traveled to Imphal to directly help at that time, the devotees in Manipur felt abandoned. Several GBC members said that they were told that the terrorists were targeting ISKCON leaders and it was dangerous to visit Manipur after the bombing. Moreover, they thought it was difficult to get a visa [...] he called an Executive Committee meeting to discuss sending leading preachers there, but the Indian RGB said that it was too dangerous."
(GBC, Monday February 12th, 2007)

That's right, following this one bomb blast, martial law and a curfew must have been imposed on the whole state of Manipur, with a state of emergency declared, and therefore not a single ISKCON leader could have possibly gone there. Obviously, the GBC knew something everyone else did not.

He was a great soul all along

"Sesa Prabhu said that it is difficult to understand how Krsna works. The recent Bhaktivedanta Institute dispute led him to associate more with Bhakti Swarupa Damodara Swami. Maharaja used to call in Sesa Prabhu to talk about the Bhaktivedanta Institute. After meetings in Alachua and Mayapur about the direction of the Bhaktivedanta Institute, Bhakti Swarupa Damodara Swami's mood became adamant about adhering to the instructions that Srila Prabhupada had given him."
(GBC, Monday February 12th, 2007)

That's right, even though we had just ruled against his understanding of scientific preaching at the previous GBC meetings (see *BTP* 11), now he has died we realize he was actually right all along and a great preacher who uniquely understood Srila Prabhupada's vision for scientific preaching.

GBC get leadership help from tennis coach

"The GBC members received a copy of the new small Indian paperback edition of Peter Burwash's "The Key to Great Leadership" [...]"
(GBC, Wednesday February 14th, 2007)

Judging by the havoc they have wreaked on Srila Prabhupada's movement over the past 30 years, we welcome the GBC taking any leadership help.

Quotes, Notes and News (QNN)

Demigod influence continues in ISKCON

In *BTP* issues 10 and 11, we wrote about the introduction of demigod worship within ISKCON, and its defence of the same by the GBC (please see "The commercialisation of ISKCON" in *BTP* 10, and "GBC defends demigod worship" in *BTP* 11). Now we have another bizarre incident to report. Earlier this year, ISKCON Abentheuer in Germany, whose GBC representative is voted-in guru HG Ravindra Svarupa Das, decided to dress Lord Krishna as the demigod Lord Shiva (see accompanying pic), as admitted by ISKCON Abentheuer:

"In this case however, it was not Shiva on the altar but Sri Sri Radha Madana-mohan who dressed up as Shambu and Parvati in honour of Shiva. [...] All glories to Shiva. All glories to Srila Prabhupada."
(Translation of letter from ISKCON Abentheuer, June 2007)

But Srila Prabhupada has never instructed us that in ISKCON temples we should dress the Deities of Radha and Krishna as Shambu and Parvati to honour Lord Shiva. Rather, Srila Prabhupada states that manufacturing our own way for worshipping the Deity leads to the greatest danger:

"The greatest danger to our movement will come when we manufacture and create our own process for worshiping the deities."
(Srila Prabhupada Letter, 4/1/73)

"But if everyone says that "I can manufacture my own way of worshiping the Deity," then what will be the condition? It will be simply pandemonium."
(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, 22/6/72)

"The Deity worship should be done just in the way it was carried out in my presence."
(Srila Prabhupada Letter, 13/11/70)



Altar Deities at ISKCON Abentheuer, Germany:
Photo taken on
January 28th, 2007

From "current" to "recent": BBT downgrades Srila Prabhupada

Please compare the following text from the dust jacket cover of three editions of *Bhagavad-gita As It Is*, which describes who Srila Prabhupada is:

1972 Original Edition

"He is a fully self-realized devotee of Lord Krishna and is the latest disciple in a succession that originally began with Krishna Himself."

1983 Edition

"He is the world's foremost Vedic scholar and teacher, and he is also the current representative of an unbroken chain of fully self-realized spiritual masters beginning with Lord Krishna Himself."

1996 Edition

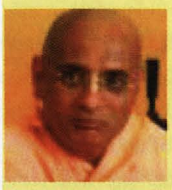
"He is the world's most distinguished Vedic scholar and teacher, and foremost recent representative of an unbroken chain of fully self-realized spiritual masters beginning with Lord Krishna Himself."

Please note that in 1972 and 1983, Srila Prabhupada was "the latest disciple" and "the current representative" in the disciplic succession from Lord Krishna. However, in 1996 the BBT (Bhaktivedanta Book Trust) decided that Srila Prabhupada was actually just the "foremost recent representative", or in other words, the best of a "recent" bunch of gurus in the disciplic succession, whose actual "latest" or "current" members are the GBC-elected gurus themselves! Maybe this downgrading in Srila Prabhupada's status from "current" to "recent" was the result of a meeting in the previous year between *BTP's* editors and BBT director HH Jayadvaita Swami, where we pointed out to His Holiness that on the dust jacket he himself was promoting the IRM's philosophy that Srila Prabhupada is the current link from whom we must take initiation!

Oops...did I really say that?

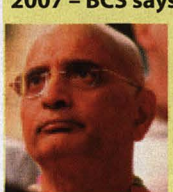
Please compare the following statements from HH Bhakti Caru Swami ("BCS"), an ISKCON GBC voted-in guru:

2002 – BCS influenced by disciples



"In the evening we got together again and my disciples celebrated my birthday. The program went on till about midnight. Initially I was reluctant to accept any worship or festivities with me in the center on that day. However due to the persuasion from many of my disciples here I complied to their request and I did realize that there was a need for such a ceremony also for their sake."
(BCS Letter, October 3rd, 2002)

2007 – BCS says only fool influenced by disciples



"To say that Ganganarayan is influencing me, literally means that I am a fool who does not have any ability to decide for himself. Rather he is manipulated and controlled by his disciples."
(BCS Letter, April 3rd, 2007)

Srila Prabhupada: Real or not?

In their desire to replace Srila Prabhupada with themselves, ISKCON's gurus continueto con - coct new philosophies. One such recent instance is by GBC voted-in guru HH Sivarama Swami (SRS) who claimed that accepting Srila Prabhupada as the *diksa* Guru of ISKCON would mean Srila Prabhupada is not real:

"[...] the Srila Prabhupada that some people refer to who is the only person who initiates, the only person who you can trust, is not the real Srila Prabhupada, it is just a reflection of the real Srila Prabhupada."
(SRS podcast, May 20th, 2007)

Yet this was exactly the situation which prevailed for 11 years between 1966 until 1977, when everyone accepted that Srila Prabhupada was the only person who initiated, the only person who could be trusted. One such participant of this was SRS himself, and no one ever thought there was anything unreal about Srila Prabhupada then. But then, of course, SRS was not jockeying to replace Srila Prabhupada as *diksa* Guru. Now he is, the same state of affairs will cause Srila Prabhupada to suddenly become unreal. SRS also implies that Srila Prabhupada is not living:

"[...] we worship Vaishnavas, we don't only worship Srila Prabhupada and all the guru *parampara* after that. We worship living Vaishnavas, that is perfection and happiness for us"
(SRS podcast, May 20th, 2007)

For SRS, worshipping Srila Prabhupada and the *guru parampara* is not sufficient because we must also worship "living" Vaishnavas, such as himself.

In addition to this offensive minimization of Srila Prabhupada's position, in the same lecture SRS also states:

"So the body is the institution and Srila Prabhupada is the life and soul of that institution."
(SRS podcast, May 20th, 2007)

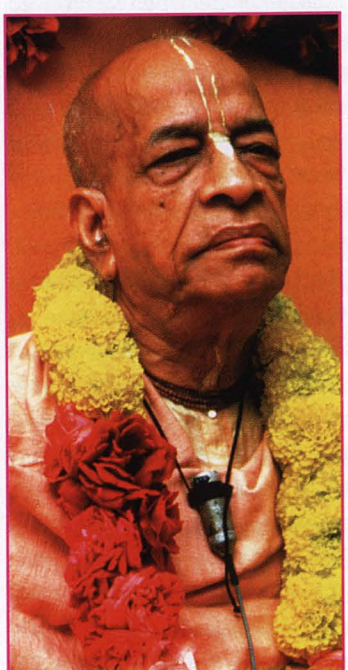
In order to be the "life and soul" of anything, Srila Prabhupada would first have to have LIFE, i.e. be living!

So as and when it suits SRS, depending on how it helps him concoct a philosophy which fits in with his need to justify his position as a *diksa* guru replacement for Srila Prabhupada, Srila Prabhupada flip-flops like a ping-pong ball between being real andunreal, living and non-living. Such contradiction will automatically arise when one tries to justify that which cannot be justified, which is a deviation from Srila Prabhupada's orders. Only strict adherence to Srila Prabhupada's orders to keep him as the *diksa* Guru of ISKCON can result in a position which is free from self-contradiction, error and offence.

You couldn't make it up!

The bizarre and twisted world of the unauthorised guru system which has been foisted on Srila Prabhupada's ISKCON movement continues to stumble on into greater depths of absurdity. The latest gem was announced on an ISKCON website as follows:

"Bhakti Charu Maharaja flew into Washington DC the next day, May 29th. [...] Maharaja is attending a three-day meeting at the ISKCON Potomac temple, with godbrothers including H.H Prahladananda Swami, H.H Radhanatha Swami, H.H Jayapataka Swami, Ravindra Svarupa Prabhu, Garuda Prabhu and Anuttama prabhu. [...] ***The three-day meeting consists of discussions on how to establish a standard, or a course, for future gurus in ISKCON.***"
(June 2nd, 2007, emphasis added)



Srila Prabhupada: ISKCON's living Guru

So yes, actually I am your self-realised, bona-fide "as-good-as-God" guru, who will take you directly back to Krishna, by acting as a perfect transparent via medium. But before I do, can I please just first go on this training course, so I can remind myself what I am supposed to do, and how I should do it?!

This reminds us of the *maya-vadi* (impersonalist) philosophy where all of us are actually supposed to be Brahman, or God. And though, unfortunately, Brahman has currently fallen into illusion, he just needs to remind himself that actually he is God, and then everything will be fine again!

Like the title says, you couldn't make it up!

Personally speaking...

His Grace Kripamoya Das, who is ISKCON UK's Congregational Preaching Director, ISKCON European Council Chairman and a Faculty Member at ISKCON's Bhaktivedanta College in Belgium, stated recently:

"The Vedic system is that the guru must personally speak the mantra (gayatri) into the ear of the disciple at the time of initiation so he obviously has to be 'physically present'."
(Kripamoya Das, *The Vaisnava Voice*, May 7th, 2007)

However, this interpretation of "the Vedic system" is not at all supported by Srila Prabhupada's practise of the Vedic system, as Kripamoya prabhu's own *brahmana* initiation letter from Srila Prabhupada clearly demonstrates:

"My dear Prabhavisnu das [...] I am in due receipt of your letter undated and accept upon your recommendation the following as my initiated disciples [...]I also accept the following as twice-born brahmanas and their threads and mantra sheets are enclosed: Krpamoya das, [...]. You should have a fire sacrifice and *the second initiates should hear through the right ear the mantra on my recorded tape*. The beads may be chanted upon by Hamsaduta."
(Srila Prabhupada Letter, November 13th, 1975, emphasis added)

So here, as on many other occasions, Srila Prabhupada has delegated a disciple's initiation into the chanting of the *gayatri mantra* to a priest, via an instruction paper and a magnetic cassette tape. Thus, since it is not a fact that *"the guru must personally speak the* mantra (gayatri) *into the ear of the disciple at the time of initiation"*, as Kripamoya himself personally can attest, then it is also not a fact that the guru *"obviously has to be 'physically present'"*, as Kripamoya prabhu claims. Indeed, Srila Prabhupada teaches the opposite:

"Physical presence is immaterial."
(Srila Prabhupada Letter, 19/1/67)

"Physical presence is not important."
(Srila Prabhupada Room Conversation, 6/10/77)

"Such association with Krsna and the Spiritual Master should be association by vibration, not physical presence"
(*Elevation to Krsna Consciousness*, BBT 1973, p. 57)

"As far as my blessing is concerned, it does not require my physical presence."
(Srila Prabhupada Letter, 30/6/74)

So Kripyamoya prabhu has two choices: He can either renounce his *brahmana* initiation (and thereby stop performing all the weddings etc. he does for a living) because he never had the "gayatri mantra *personally spoken into his ear by his Guru at the time of initiation*"; Or, he can renounce the incorrect philosophy he is speaking here, by posting an apology to Srila Prabhupada on his website, since he has effectively stated that Srila Prabhupada has deviated from the "Vedic system".

We will wait eagerly to see which path he takes!

Finding the real gold in Texas



By **Cathy Vaughan**

Dallas, Texas USA

My husband Bhakta Jim Prabhu first visited a Hare Krishna temple on March 16, 1976. We were living in Ft. Worth, Texas at the time and had a five month old baby daughter. About two weeks before, sometime around the first of March, a devotee out on *sankirtana* (book distribution) in Ft. Worth had stopped my husband and gave him a *Back to Godhead* magazine for which he gave a donation. She invited us to come to the Sunday love feast at the Hare Krishna temple located in Dallas, Texas.

We discussed visiting the temple and I kept the card with the temple info handy so I could call them to get the directions to the temple in Dallas which was about 40 miles from where we lived at the time. When I did call, the devotee who answered the telephone was so nice and full of enthusiasm to hear that we were planning to come and visit the temple the following Sunday. After speaking with this devotee I hung up the telephone and a feeling of strange, great joy welled up inside of me, so much so that I danced across the room to the hallway! There at the threshold between the room and the hallway I suddenly stopped and felt foolish. I could not even imagine WHY I reacted in such a way as dancing across the room. I knew NOTHING about the Hare Krishnas, who they were or what they were about!

The following Sunday we arrived at the Dallas Temple before the *arati* (worship ceremony) was about to begin. As we went inside the double doors we were met by a very kind devotee in white robes who introduced himself to us with his devotee name. What an exotic place it was!! The smells of food, spices and incense all combined to create a very strange atmosphere indeed! A lady devotee came by in a *sari* and spoke with us, and another devotee who came by turned out to be the one that my husband met on *sankirtana*. She was so kind; everyone was so kind!

Then the conch shell was blowing, and we were ushered into the temple room for *arati*. We saw devotees falling to the floor, on their hands and knees giving their obeisances to the Deities. We backed up against the temple wall, I was holding my baby in my arms, and we observed the most unusual spectacle we had ever seen in our lives! And there on the altar, in all Their glory, were Their Lordships Sri Sri Radha-Kalachandji accepting the very ectastic worship of Their devotees.

The rest of the evening passed by with a class which I don't remember understanding very much of, and then the Love Feast itself. Oh the feast, what a wonderful, wonderful feast! This was a very opulent feast for the Sunday guests as it was only two days away from the Gaura Purnima festival. Devotees were serving guests out of large white buckets, the most wonderful food that was literally out of this world, and we were hooked! I remember later on hearing and reading that Srila Prabhupada had said to give guests *prasadam* (sanctified vegetarian food) because they will become very much attracted to Lord Krishna by having *prasadam*. A very nice couple preached to us that evening. We were not able to comprehend much of what they were preaching about, but they were so kind and friendly. We left later that night to return to our home with more *prasadam*, a *Bhagavata-gita*, and the *Krsna* books. As we were heading back to Ft. Worth that night, the feeling of where we had just been was a most wonderful one. I felt that we had been to Vaikuntha (the spiritual world) itself and it was such a very memorable spring evening of 1976.

Bhakta Jim Prabhu and I attended many Sunday feasts during the next few months before moving over to live in the ISKCON Dallas community. At the time we didn't have any understanding of falsely renouncing and we did become very homesick. The devotees were very kind and we did love much about the temple life, but after a period of time we didn't attend the temple so much even though we remained in Dallas.

There came a time when Srila Prabhupada's health had begun to decline. I remember devotees going to the temple room to sing *bhajans* and pray for His Divine Grace's health. Bhakta Jim Prabhu and myself took turns upon some of the occasions to pray and sing *bhajans* for Srila Prabhupada's health. At some point we did move away from Dallas for a while. I still remember when we received word that Srila Prabhupada had left this material world. It was such a strange feeling because we couldn't help but wonder what would become of the movement with His Divine Grace not physically with us anymore. There was the question of who would initiate devotees.

After a time we started attending the temple again only to find that Srila Prabhupada had appointed 11 of his top disciples to serve as "guru" in his place - or so we were told. The "guru" was Tamala Krishna Goswami (TKG). This time around we noticed many changes. There wasn't much left of the "old" ISKCON we had experienced when we had come to the temple before Srila Prabhupada's departure. It was somehow different. I still have a hard time describing the difference. I do know for a fact that *sankirtana* now was more about selling paintings, candles and useless record albums to people. The original movement wasn't there anymore, it wasn't quite the same. I did go out and sell those useless albums to people, asking them "What kind of music do you like?" I had done some *sankirtana* at Dallas-Ft. Worth Airport while Srila Prabhupada was still the Guru of ISKCON. I did not like this new form of "*sankirtana*". While I was very shy about approaching people, getting donations in exchange for books, I had no taste whatsoever for getting people to buy these albums. I didn't know or understand much but I did know that I didn't like going out and selling those albums.

Bhakta Jim Prabhu was in on helping to build the Dallas temple restaurant and did landscape work around the temple. I worked as a waitress different evenings of the week in the restaurant. I would always, after my shift, put my tips into the Deity box for Their Lordships Radha Kalachandji before going home for the night. We did "worship" TKG as our guru but we did not remain stable enough to become initiated disciples of TKG. Today we are

"By that time, January 2001, there were 70 so-called gurus. When we left the movement in 1985 there was only what was left of the original 11! What a weekend that turned out to be [...] By Sunday evening of that weekend we both accepted the fact that, yes, a terrible thing had happened to ISKCON..."

very grateful that we were never initiated by any of these so-called gurus.

We were very much attracted to the farm in Oklahoma that the temple in Dallas had purchased. But there was no direction because Srila Prabhupada was no longer the Guru of his own movement. There were *bhaktas* (devotees) on the farm, and others, but it wasn't a real working farm. So we decided to go back to Dallas and leave the movement. We settled in a suburb of Dallas and enrolled our children in school there. Sometimes I would hear about what was happening with ISKCON and it was indeed strange, such as child abuse scandals and the like. I remember thinking how glad I was that my son was too young for the*ashram*. These things were quite bewildering to hear about a movement that I had considered so perfect and pure. So what had gone wrong? We never understood what happened at the time. Through the years we never forgot the movement and I still had a desire, a hope of someday returning to ISKCON, although I wasn't sure when. However, we always kept our belief that Krishna is the Supreme Person over all the living entities.

Early in the year of 2001 the company I worked for had installed the Internet service on everyone's computer. Previously only certain individuals were allowed access to the Internet, but now we all were able to access it. At the time I didn't have a home computer so I found this to be a great opportunity to surf the Internet for the first time ever and I waited for my lunch hour to check out the Internet. ISKCON was the first place that I wanted to look up on the Internet. It was all so new to me and when I typed in "ISKCON" so many links came up! I scrolled down through the links quickly reading them… but wait! What caught my eye? There was a link with a statement that said something like "we are restoring the original ISKCON back to its purity by recognizing Srila Prabhupada as the true Guru of ISKCON". I'm not sure of the exact wording of this link as this was 6 years ago, but it really caught my attention!

I opened the link and began reading the statements of IRM – the ISKCON Revival Movement. Wow!!!! These were pretty strong statements!! I saw where I could send an e-mail for questions that I might have, and yes I had questions! I sent an email wondering why are these statements made that Srila Prabhupada is the true Guru of ISKCON? I gave some information about myself and my husband stating that we had once aspired to be disciples of TKG. I admitted to our own *maya* (illusion) but yes, I was very curious as to what answer I would receive back.

The answer that I received back was quite astonishing indeed! I printed the email to take home to share with my husband. The email said everything that we really needed to know about the guru hoax and how by that time, January 2001, there were 70 so-called gurus. When we left the movement in 1985 there was only what was left of the original 11! What a weekend that turned out to be. It was very difficult to change our thoughts on the fact that the devotees were really cheated out of their real Guru, Srila Prabhupada!

The weekend turned out to be a weekend of strange, mixed emotions. It was very difficult to realize that something we believed in wasn't right. Srila Prabhupada's disciples were stolen from him as well as the glorious movement that he established years before. By Sunday evening of that weekend we both accepted the fact that, yes, a terrible thing had happened to ISKCON. These men took Srila Prabhupada's place and instead of initiating disciples on his behalf, they were stealing his disciples.



Husband and wife, Mother Cathy and Bhakta Jim

So many terrible things started to happen with the guru scandals and the horrific abuse of ISKCON's children.

I would like to invite the devotees around the world to really take a look at the IRM movement and read the articles on the IRM website, along with *The Final Order* and B*ack to Prabhupada* magazines. You will learn much about the guru hoax and how all devotees in ISKCON really are the disciples of Srila Prabhupada. There is no substitute for Srila Prabhupada. No one on this planet can possibly take his place.

I am very grateful to IRM and the devotees of the IRM movement for their efforts on Srila Prabhupada's behalf. Due to association with the IRM, my husband and I both started chanting 16 rounds again after such a long a time away from the movement. It seems ironic that though we were unable to come to the standard to accept Srila Prabhupada as our Guru when he was on the planet, we have been given another chance to become his disciples now. I guess that's what coming 'Back to Prabhupada' really means!

We support the IRM Manhattan temple with donations and have had wonderful association with the temple devotees there, including Brahmabhuta Prabhu and his wife Mother Vani Devi Dasi. Now that Bhakta Jim Prabhu and I are getting closer to retirement we have been thinking of ways to really help Srila Prabhupada's movement. We have this idea of obtaining some land in the Northeastern USA to grow some organic vegetables and fruits for the temple in Manhattan.

Our hope is that more and more devotees will come to realize that Srila Prabhupada is the real Guru of the Hare Krishna movement. We have all been cheated, and the cheaters continue to cheat the devotees out of their real, eternal relationship with His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada.

I wish to offer my most humble obeisances to the devotees who are printing and distributing the *Back to Prabhupada* magazines. All glories to their service on behalf of getting the truth out that we have been cheated out of our most worshipful Srila Prabhupada. We do not have to worship those that have lied to innocent devotees. We only need to worship Srila Prabhupada as he is with us always.

All glories to Srila Prabhuapda!

Readers are cordially invited to follow Mother Cathy's example by sending us your story of just how you came 'Back to Prabhupada'.

"Children should not be beaten at all": Srila Prabhupada speaks out on corporal punishment

In the last issue of *BTP*, we showed how Srila Prabhupada firmly outlawed ISKCON's involvement in the opening of government schools which follow the government's curriculum. Rather, he only wanted bona fide *gurukulas* (Hare Krishna schools) which would create first-class devotees. Despite these clear instructions from our Founder-*Acarya*, ISKCON is operating or involved with a number of schools where the government authorized syllabus is taught.

Allied to this has been a storm of controversy surrounding the legacy of child abuse in ISKCON schools, with ISKCON's Governing Body Commission (GBC) even going so far as to write a letter of apology in this year's GBC resolutions to convicted child abuser and voted-in guru, HH Dhanurdhara Swami, and inviting him back to active service - while continuing to ban IRM supporters from even seeing the Deities in the temple, and then lying to the media about it (see *BTP* 14, "ISKCON caught lying over temple banning"). Furthermore, we see a prominent ISKCON leader (and the same person who lied to the media about the temple banning just mentioned) who has been accused of child abuse claiming that physical corporal punishment was part of how ISKCON schools were organized in the 1970s:

"Corporal punishment was part of ISKCON's discpline"

"Corporal punishment was part of the disciplinary plans of ISKCON in the 1970s and '80s in schools in India and the US."

(Gauri Das, Bhaktivedanta Manor Temple President, quoted in "Spiritual head accused of beating up children", *DNA World*, November 14th, 2006)

Below we see that corporal punishment was certainly NOT a part of Srila Prabhupada's "disciplinary plans" for ISKCON:

Children should not be beaten at all

"Now the thing is, children should not be beaten at all, that I have told. They should simply be shown the stick strongly. So if one cannot manage in that way then he is not fit as teacher. If a child is trained properly in Krishna Consciousness, he will never go away. That means he must have two things, love and education. So if there is beating of child, that will be difficult for him to accept in loving spirit, and when he is old enough he may want to go away--that is the danger. So why these things are going on - marching and chanting japa, *insufficient milk, too strict enforcement of time schedules, hitting the small children? Why these things are being imposed? [...] What can I do from such a distant place? They should run and play when they are small children, not forced to chant* japa, *that is not the way. So I have given you the guiding principles, it is not that I must be consulted with every small detail, that is the business of the in-charge, but if no one is there who can manage in the right way, what can I do?"*

(Srila Prabhupada Letter sent to a teacher at the first ISKCON School in Dallas, November 18th, 1972)

"So I have heard that there has been some beating with sticks on the children. Of course I do not know, but that should not be. You may show the stick, threaten, but better art is to somehow or other, even by tricking them, avoid this matter of force and induce them to obey out of loving spirit. That is success of disciplinary method."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, November 18th, 1972)

Force and punishment is never allowed

"Encourage them to chant as much japa *as possible, but there is no question of force or punishment. If there is need you may shake your finger at them but never physical punishment is allowed. Try as far as possible to discipline them with love and affection, so that they develop a taste for austerity of life and think it great fun to serve Krishna in many ways. Rising early and* mangal arati, *this is enough austerity. Besides that, let them learn something, chant, dance, eat as much* prasadam *as they like, and do not mind if they have playful nature--let them also play and run, that is natural. It is nice if they eat often--if children overeat it doesn't matter, that is no mistake."*

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, January 10th, 1972)

"Keep them always happy in Krishna Consciousness, and do not try to force or punish or they will get the wrong idea. By and by, if they are satisfied in this way, they will all grow up to be first-class preachers and devotees."

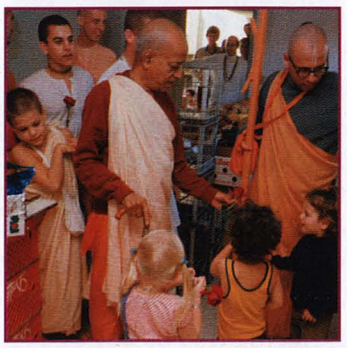
(Srila Prabhupada Letter, February 16th, 1972)

"I consider this Gurukula *school to be one of our most important aspects of this movement [...] If there is obedience then there will be discipline, and without any discipline the management is very difficult. So first obedience by the children. That is not always by punishing or by force, but sometimes by showing the stick, without necessarily hitting and sometimes it is learning how to trick them or even cheat them into obeying you voluntarily and enjoying by their obedience."*

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, June 20th, 1972)

IRM Mission Statement

Since the physical departure of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada from our material vision on November 14th 1977, the International Society For Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), the great movement which he single-handedly founded in 1966, and which is the only hope for humanity, has undergone a massive deterioration in its spiritual purity. This has been due to various deviations from the instructions and standards given by Srila Prabhupada, the chief of which being his displacement as the sole *diksa* Guru for ISKCON. The ISKCON Revival Movement (IRM) seeks to restore ISKCON to its former glory, purity and philosophical chastity through the re-institution of all the instructions and standards that Srila Prabhupada gave, beginning with his role as the sole authority and *diksa* Guru for ISKCON. The IRM's position is set out in *The Final Order* - see back page to order your free copy.



Readers' questions and challenges

"If you have a problem with disciples of Srila Prabhupada initiating devotees as diksa *gurus then why do you not just accept Srila Prabhupada as your* diksa *Guru and pray mercifully to him and Sri Krishna to accept your* bhakti*? Why cause so much pain to other devotees?"*

- Pritesh Patel, London, England

Editor replies: Since what we are speaking is the *truth*, other devotees who have come to understand this truth about Srila Prabhupada have not felt pain but rather great joy that Srila Prabhupada actually wanted everyone in ISKCON to become his direct disciple. *BTP* has received over 1000 letters testifying to this fact. Thus, by *not* giving devotees the truth, we are actually causing them pain. In the western world, we have freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This means everyone has the right to receive information and decide for themselves if they wish to accept it. It is ironic that today about the only places where literature distribution about Srila Prabhupada is banned are certain Islamic countries and ISKCON festivals! And it's very interesting that at the ISKCON festivals many devotees happily *take* our literature, because they *want* to know the truth and make up their own minds. Only the GBC's thugs try and prevent this distribution, but the devotees eagerly *take* the literature. Otherwise if no one wanted it, *why* would ISKCON need to try and *stop* the distribution? Hence we are performing a public service, which has been appreciated by the vast majority of devotees who have received the truth from us. Indeed, if what we say is so pathetic, why not let the devotees read it and make up their own minds, or even rebut what we say? Why physically attack our distributors?

"I have firm faith that Srila Prabhupada was quite competent enough to empower his disciples to become gurus. I also believe that he has disciples that are sincere enough to take full advantage of that empowerment. Saying that he is not able to create disciples qualified enough to initiate does not at all glorify Srila Prabhupada."

-Gaura-Nitai Das, Alachua, USA

Editor replies: Please note that the IRM has never argued that Srila Prabhupada was not competent enough to make pure devotees. Rather, we state that one cannot act as a *diksa* guru unless he is specifically authorised to do so by the spiritual master (Srila Prabhupada). This is clear from Srila Prabhupada's teachings:

"One should take initiation from a bona fide spiritual master coming in the disciplic succession, who is authorised by his predecessor spiritual master. This is called diksa vidhana." **(*Srimad-Bhagavatam* 4.8.54, purport)**

"A guru can become guru when he is ordered by his guru. That's all. Otherwise nobody can become guru." **(Lecture, 28/10/75)**

"Self made guru cannot be guru. He must be authorised by the bona fide guru. Then he's guru. This is the fact...Similarly, bona fide guru means he must be authorised by the superior guru." **(Lecture, 31/10/72)**

"Vallabha Bhatta wanted to be initiated by Gadadhara Pandita, but Gadadhara Pandita refused, saying, 'The work of acting as a spiritual master is not possible for me. I am completely dependent. My Lord is Gauracandra, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. I cannot do anything independently, without His order.'" **(*C.c. Antya* 7:150-151)**

And Srila Prabhupada only authorised *ritviks*, not *diksa* gurus, to initiate on his behalf, as per his July 9th 1977 directive and Last Will and Testament.

"In your article you describe Srila Narayana Maharaja's movement as deviant and that is just so untrue and unjust. His movement is completely bona fide and based on all authorized vaisnava principles and the laws of guru parampara *[...] Like me, we are not deviating from Srila Prabhupada's guidance at all, in fact we are taking Srila Prabhupada's advice and associating with a pure devotee of the Lord, just like Srila Prabhupada is advising us to everywhere in His divine books. Absolutely the best of both worlds."*

- Peter Smith, London, England

Editor replies: The argument you have made is made by every group with a guru other than Srila Prabhupada, including ISKCON, other branches of the Gaudiya Matha etc. *" 'Our' guru is bona fide, we are getting the best of both worlds"*, etc. Yet all these gurus contradict each other, so they cannot ALL be right! Obviously, the only correct Guru is Srila Prabhupada, and not the hundreds of competitors, from ISKCON, Gaudiya Matha and other groups. Everyone is claiming they are a pure devotee of the Lord, yet all these rival gurus are teaching differently from Srila Prabhupada, beginning by falsely claiming that Srila Prabhupada did not institute a *ritvik* system which would allow him to remain as the Guru for ISKCON. Conveniently and coincidentally, such a belief means that now we must instead accept these rival "pure devotees" as successor substitutes to Srila Prabhupada. If you look under our website under 'Narayana Maharaja', and also read *BTP* issue 5, you will get proof that Narayana Maharaja teaches differently to Srila Prabhupada.

And since Narayana Maharaja is teaching differently to Srila Prabhupada, he obviously cannot be representing him.

"You pretend to be doing service to Prabhupada but I'm convinced you are doing disservice. Srila Prabhupada said ISKCON is like his body but all you are doing is attacking Iskcon directly."

- Nithin Gukhool, Mauritius

Editor replies: Service to the spiritual master is defined by Srila Prabhupada thus:

"Suppose I were to ask a disciple, 'My dear student, please give me a glass of water.' It is then his duty to give me a glass of water. If he thinks, 'Prabhupada wants a glass of water, but why not give him something better? Why not a glass of hot milk?' that is not service. In his consideration, hot milk is very palatable and is better than water, yet because I have asked for water, he has to give me water, not milk. That is favorable service."

(*Science of Self-Realization*, chapter 8)

Similarly, since Srila Prabhupada specifically ordered a *ritvik* system of initiations, and instead we disobeyed this order and replaced Srila Prabhupada with a guru-by-majority-vote system, this is hardly going to please Srila Prabhupada! So given that such an horrendous disservice was done by the GBC to Srila Prabhupada (please see back page of this issue), and given that this disservice is still continuing today, it is the disciple's duty to speak out against this disservice so that everyone will know what the truth is. Therefore *BTP* is actually rendering the highest service.

Regarding your second point, WE are not attacking ISKCON. Rather, ISKCON is attacking Srila Prabhupada as explained above. We are DEFENDING Srila Prabhupada, and therefore his ISKCON body, from this guru hoax which has wreaked havoc on the movement.

We welcome all correspondence

Email us: irm@iskconirm.com

ISKCON's lawbreaker: Case Study of His Holiness

In *BTP* 10, we published a case study of HH Jayadvaita Swami ("JS") where we highlighted the fact that JS refers to the following "law", which is extracted from a private letter sent by Srila Prabhupada to a deviant disciple:

"But as a matter of etiquette it is the custom that during the lifetime of your Spiritual Master you bring the prospective disciples to him, and in his absence or disappearance you can accept disciples without any limitation. This is the law of disciplic succession."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter to Tusta Krishna, December 2nd, 1975)

Quoting this law, JS stated:

"That a spiritual master initiates until his departure and then his disciples initiate next is the normal system. On this we are all in agreement. This is what Srila Prabhupada taught the entire time he was with us."

(*Where the* Ritvik *People are Wrong*, Jayadvaita Swami, 1996)

However, a few years later, JS became one of the first people to break this law, when he allowed his own disciple, HH Kadabma Kanana Swami ("KKS"), to accept disciples in his presence; and furthermore, JS himself stopped initiating!

Thus, as we pointed out, it is JS himself who is reversing and outright rejecting everything he says Srila Prabhupada taught on disciplic succession the entire time he was with us.

Like father, like son

One can only therefore marvel at the power of *maya* (illusion) that KKS also cites this very same "law" in order to attempt to justify why he is a *diksa* guru:

"Srila Prabhupada speaks about the law of disciplic succession, this is the proper system to be followed."

(KKS Letter, October 11th, 2006)

In addition, to this letter he attaches the same paper from Jayadvaita Swami, *Where the* Ritvik *People are Wrong*, in which we just quoted Jayadvaita Swami stating that the system is that the guru initiates until he departs, and THEN his disciple initiates next:

"p.s. Please read the attached document compiled by HH Jayadvaita Maharaja ('Where The Ritviks Are Wrong') carefully."

(KKS Letter, October 11th, 2006)

Yet, KKS's actual practice is the very opposite of what he preaches:

"[...] HH Jayadvaita Swami requested his disciple to become an initiating spiritual master, although generally by etiquette one will not initiate in the physical presence of his own spiritual master."

(KKS website biography, archived April 2007)

Thus, having stated that "the law of disciplic of succession is the proper system to be followed", KKS then shamelessly justifies breaking this "law" and "etiquette" by citing the senior lawbreaker, Jayadvaita Swami!

When this hypocritical contradiction was pointed out to KKS, he suddenly found he had no time, and replied:

"I don't have time just now to write a full reply. I will write more later."

(KKS Letter, October 22nd, 2006)

Yet, he never did write any reply, full or otherwise, later. Readers of *BTP* will note here the repetition of a familiar pattern when our supposedly "self-realised" gurus are asked simple questions regarding their positions as gurus – they suddenly find they are very "busy", and then disappear altogether!

What Srila Prabhupada is in fact stating in this "law" are simply the different conditions in which one can or cannot accept disciples. This is not under dispute, that one can only take disciples after the Guru departs. What is under dispute is *when* did Srila Prabhupada choose to exercise this law by authorizing certain individuals to become *diksa* guru successors upon his departure? We know it was not with the 11 *ritviks* whom Srila Prabhupada appointed on July 9th, 1977, who then unauthorisedly became ISKCON gurus, and in turn enabled others, such as JS and KKS, to also unauthorisedly become gurus themselves. We know also that it is not even with the person to whom Srila Prabhupada wrote the letter in question where the law is stated, Tusta Krishna Das, who never became a *diksa* guru in ISKCON. In sum, Srila Prabhupada never invoked this law to order any of his disciples to succeed him in ISKCON, but rather he only established a *ritvik* system of initiation for ISKCON, just before he departed.

Srila Prabhupada worship: "Dry, theoretical and impersonal"

KKS states:

"You have come to me as an aspiring disciple and gradually we have been developing a relationship [...] The devotees that are into the ritvik philosophy are having a very dry, theoretical and impersonal understanding of spiritual life, they can not see how Krsna works through his devotees."

(KKS Letter, 11th October, 2006)

1) In contrast to KKS's follow-up letter to this one, quoted in the last section, here when KKS thought he was dealing with an "aspiring disciple", he had all the time in the world to compose a lengthy reply. It was only when the supposedly "aspiring disciple" asked a simple question which exposed KKS's shameful hypocrisy, that he suddenly found he did not have any time to reply, and then did not bother at all!

2) Here, KKS accuses followers of the *ritvik* philosophy as having a very dry, theoretical and impersonal understanding of spiritual life, because he claims we do not see how Krsna "works through his devotees". The reality is actually the reverse, since it is KKS who does not believe that Krishna is able to currently work through his topmost devotee, Srila Prabhupada, to accept us as his disciples, and to accept our service. Instead, using this rationale that Krishna is currently unable to work through Srila Prabhupada, KKS argues that we must have a substitute whom we must instead serve and worship as "good-as-God". And by an amazing coincidence, KKS just happens to be one such substitute, readily available to take Srila Prabhupada's place in our lives!

3) Further, if accepting Srila Prabhupada as one's *diksa* Guru is "dry, theoretical and impersonal", that means KKS's own guru, HH Jayadvaita Swami who is a disciple of Srila Prabhupada, has had a very dry, theoretical and impersonal relationship with Srila Prabhupada for the past 30 years.

4) Happily, however, Srila Prabhupada completely destroys KKS's mundane conception of the bona fide spiritual master in just one sentence:

"I shall remain your personal guidance, physically present or not physically, as I am getting personal guidance from my Guru Maharaja."

(Srila Prabhupada Room Conversation, Vrindavan, July 14th, 1977)

Here Srila Prabhupada clearly states that he will CONTINUE to give PERSONAL guidance, even when he is not physically present.

KKS fabricates evidence

"Yes Srila Prabhupada did write a 9 of July letter. It shows that Srila Prabhupada started

Kadamba Kanana Swami

a ritvik system at the end of his life, when he was ill and not able to travel."
(KKS Letter, October 11th, 2006)

But the July 9th directive does not state anywhere that the*ritvik* system is started because Srila Prabhupada is "ill and not able to travel". Since such a notion is not stated either in the July 9th directive or anywhere else by Srila Prabhupada, it can only be a fabrication from KKS's own brain. On the contrary, the July 9th directive states only that the system is started for the following reason:

"for the purpose of performing initiations, both first initiation and second initiation."
(July 9th directive, 1977)

A purpose, which would need to be fulfilled for the lifetime of ISKCON.

There is also no statement anywhere from Srila Prabhupada that states that his instructions can only be followed in consultation with his latest health report or travel plans; let alone terminate those instructions, just as the GBC unauthorisedly terminated the July 9th directive immediately upon Srila Prabhupada's physical departure.

More fabrication

"Srila Prabhupada had already explained how initiations would go on after his departure in the May 28 conversations. So from this it is clear what Srila Prabhupada's intentions were; 1.) while he was ill he wanted that these senior disciples would act as ritvik gurus, doing the initiation ceremony, but the initiates would still be Srila Prabhupada's direct disciples."
(KKS Letter, October 11th, 2006)

But in this conversation, Srila Prabhupada's departure is only mentioned clearly at the beginning of the conversation, and in response Srila Prabhupada did indeed explain how initiations would continue after his departure, and whose disciples such new initiates belong to:

Satsvarupa: "Then our next question concerns initiations in the future, particularly at that time when you're no longer with us. We want to know how first and second initiation would be conducted."

Prabhupada: "Yes. I shall recommend some of you. After this is settled up, I shall recommend some of you to act as officiating *acaryas*."

Tamala Krsna: "Is that called *rtvik-acarya*?"

Prabhupada: "*Rtvik*, yes."

[...]

Satsvarupa: "So they may also be considered your disciples."

Prabhupada: "Yes, they are disciples."
(May 28th Conversation, 1977)

Again, there is NOTHING in the above conversation that refers to, or connects, Srila Prabhupada's health to the system of initiations he put in place.

Follow the real order:

"2.) that after his departure from this world the same senior disciples would continue to initiate as regular gurus and the initiates would be their disciples, Srila Prabhupada's grand disciples."
(KKS Letter, October 11th, 2006)

KKS refers here to the following part of the conversation:

Tamala Krsna: "No, he's asking that these *rtvik-acaryas,* they're officiating, giving *diksa*. Their... The people who they give *diksa* to, whose disciple are they?"

Prabhupada: "They're his disciple."

Tamala Krsna: "They're his disciple."

Prabhupada: "Who is initiating. He is granddisciple."*





Like father, like son:
HH Jayadvaita Swami (left) and HH Kadamba Kanana Swami (right)

Satsvarupa: "Yes."

Tamala Krsna: "That's clear."

Satsvarupa: "Then we have a question concer..."

Prabhupada: "When I order, "You become guru," he becomes regular guru. That's all. He becomes disciple of my disciple. That's it."

**(Transcript for this conversation "checked and edited" by his own guru, Jayadvaita Swami, for the paper* Under My Order *by Ravindra Svarupa Das, renders this as "his grand-disciple", meaning the "his" in this conversation can only be referring to Srila Prabhupada, since obviously only he, and not his disciples, could have grand-disciples at that time!)*

Srila Prabhupada does not say that after his departure, the disciples he recommended (and later appointed on July 9th to act as *ritviks*) "WOULD CONTINUE" to initiate as regular gurus, taking disciples for themselves. Srila Prabhupada clearly says: "WHEN I ORDER, 'You become guru,' he becomes regular guru." "When I order" is NOT the same as saying "I order". The word "When" renders such a potential order as being conditional on the order actually being given in the first place! This is such a basic point of English that even a child could understand the difference between "I order" and "When I order". Since KKS is Dutch, this may explain his confusion on this simple point. ALL Srila Prabhupada is saying here is that SHOULD an order to be a "regular guru" be given by him, THEN such gurus would naturally have disciples of their own. This order from the initiating spiritual master to become an initiating spiritual master oneself is, as we have many times emphasized in the pages of *BTP*, essential before one can assume this position:

"A guru can become guru when he's ordered by his guru. That's all. Otherwise nobody can become guru."
(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, October 28th, 1975)

However, it is just plain, historical fact that:

1) Srila Prabhupada never gave such an order for his disciples to initiate their own disciples.

2) The order Srila Prabhupada *did* give (in his July 9th, 1977 directive to all GBCs and Temple Presidents) was to act as *ritviks* (representatives) only.

Conclusion

In ISKCON we must follow what Srila Prabhupada actually ordered, and thus keep him as the initiating Guru for ISKCON. Instead, KKS claims that Srila Prabhupada cannot be the Guru due to a "law" which he and his own guru are breaking in order to take over from Srila Prabhupada continuing as the Guru of ISKCON! Not for nothing is our current age, *Kali-yuga*, known as the Age of Hypocrisy!:

"This is the age, Kali. It is called Kali. Hypocrisy, simply hypocrisy. Kali means full of hypocrisy."
(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, 26/11/66)

ISKCON leader comments further

In our last issue, we highlighted the praise lavished on *BTP* by ISKCON leader His Grace Kripamoya Das (please see *BTP*15, "ISKCON leader praises *Back to Prabhupada*"). He has now written another article wherein he discusses the philosophical position of the IRM further. All quotes from Kripamoya prabhu appear in tinted panels, and are taken from his article "Two Ramas, Two Gurus, and a False Dilemma…", *The Vaisnava Voice*, May 6th, 2007.

Srila Prabhupada is our Guru

"In our ISKCON, one who accepts Srila Prabhupada as the acarya is factually accepting him as his guru. How could it be otherwise?"

Yes, how could it be otherwise! Well spoken. Kripamoya then goes on to explain exactly the type of guru Srila Prabhupada is.

Srila Prabhupada supplies all transcendental knowledge

"It is Srila Prabhupada who has supplied all members of our Vaishnava community with knowledge and an example of pure devotion. When any of our preachers is successful in bringing a soul to spiritual life, it is through the power of Srila Prabhupada's words which he or she has repeated."

The guru, who has given all the transcendental knowledge by which we are liberated, is the *diksa* or initiating guru:

"This is the purpose of *diksa*, or initiation. Initiation means receiving the pure knowledge of spiritual consciousness."
(*Sri Caitanya-caritamrta, Madhya-lila*, 9.61, purport)

"*Diksa* is the process by which one can awaken his transcendental knowledge and vanquish all reactions caused by sinful activity. " **(*Sri Caitanya-caritamrta, Madhya-lila*, 15.108, purport)**

Srila Prabhupada is link between us and Krishna

"And certainly we are all depending on Srila Prabhupada to intercede with Krishna so that we can attain His shelter."

Again, the guru who acts as the link between us and Krishna is the *diksa* guru:

"And if you get a bona fide spiritual master, he will take you to Krsna."
(*The Laws of Nature*, chapter 1, p. 43)

Srila Prabhupada is the one who gives salvation

"He is surely our guarantee of salvation if we follow his instructions and personal example in our daily life."

Again, Kripamoya prabhu has summarised perfectly the description of a *diksa* guru, or one who is responsible for giving us salvation:

"This is the process of initiation. […] Then, the spiritual master takes care of him and elevates him to spiritual emancipation."
(*Sri Caitanya-caritamrta, Madhya-lila, 24.256)*

ISKCON "gurus" help practically

"And yet if a disciple is scripturally instructed, personally and practically guided, and sometimes corrected to reduce their tendency to commit offenses, they also have a guru in the person who is doing all that for them."

Kripyamoya prabhu was not trained personally by Srila Prabhupada, having barely met him, but rather by other devotees such as his Temple President etc., and yet he became Srila Prabhupada's initiated disciple, since the other devotees who helped him on a day to day basis were his *siksa* gurus only:

"It is not that after we become initiated we become perfect. No. It requires teaching. So if we take instruction from them, all senior godbrothers may be treated as guru, there is no harm."
(Srila Prabhupada Letter, November 20th, 1971)

ISKCON "gurus" like classroom monitor

"Similarly, one who has accepted the role of guru in modern ISKCON should not take the credit for being a mere instrument in Srila Prabhupada's hands. Although others may view him as guru, he knows that he remains a simple disciple, a 'classroom monitor' in Srila Prabhupada's school."

The class monitor never takes the place of the teacher, but *assists* him in his absence:

"Sometimes a *diksa* guru is not present always. Therefore one can take learning, instruction, from an advanced devotee. That is called the *siksa* guru."
(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, July 4th, 1974)

Doctor *Diksa* – Nurse *Siksa*

Kripamoya prabhu summarises the difference between Srila Prabhupada and the ISKCON "gurus", as that between a doctor and a nurse:

"I have had cancer successfully treated twice over the past five months. The medical team included some highly specialised surgeons who saw me once or twice, operated, then saw me once afterwards. […] The surgeons could not see me every day to change my dressings, but the nurses could."

The Guru, like the doctor or surgeon, who actually *cures* a person from his material sickness, is of course the *diksa* Guru:

"*Diksa* actually means initiating a disciple with transcendental knowledge by which he becomes freed from *all* material contamination."
(*Sri Caitanya-caritamrta, Madhya-lila*, 4.111, purport, emphasis added)

The devotees who assist practically by guiding us how to chant our rounds etc., like the nurses who change dressings, are also necessary, and are *siksa* gurus.

False dilemma

"It is therefore a false dilemma that is posed by ISKCON's critics: "Srila Prabhupada or a modern day guru? Take your choice!"

Yes, Kripyamoya is correct that this is a false dilemma, and is certainly never one posed by the IRM, since we continually point out that there are two types of gurus, and both are needed:

"The GBC should all be the instructor gurus. I am the initiator guru, and you should be the instructor guru by teaching what I am teaching and doing what I am doing."
(Srila Prabhupada Letter, August 4th, 1975)

So the GBC and all other "senior" devotees were meant to work hand-in-hand with Srila Prabhupada, who is the *diksa* or initiator guru, by acting as instructor or *siksa* gurus.

Conclusion

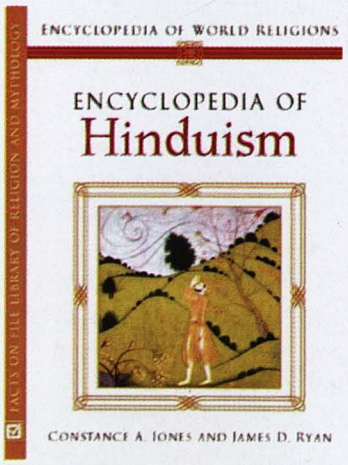
Thus, again Kripyamoya has offered some wise words, just as in his previous submission. He simply needs to follow these words of his, which show that ISKCON devotees who help us practically on a day to day basis, just as Kripamoya prabhu was himself helped, are only *siksa* gurus, and that Srila Prabhupada is the *diksa* Guru.

IRM profiled in Encyclopedia

Following the launch of *BTP* in October 2003, the IRM has been represented at a number of scholarly conferences and in publications including: the American Family Foundation (International Cultic Studies Association); Center for Studies on New Religions (CESNUR); American Academy of Religion; Society for Studies in Sects and New Religious Movements (Czech Republic); Columbia University Press; Continuum International Publishing; Martin-Luther University (Germany); *Dingir* magazine (Czech Republic).

IRM profiled in Encyclopedia

This year, a major highlight has been a significant placement in the *Encyclopedia of Hinduism*.



Encyclopedia of Hinduism is a volume from the new *Encyclopedia of World Religions* series. From an academic viewpoint, movements and personalities such as ISKCON and Srila Prabhupada, are automatically profiled under the heading of "Hinduism", and listed alphabetically from A-Z, the *Encyclopedia of Hinduism* "focuses on the most significant groups within this religion, noteworthy teachers and their contributions". *BTP* editor Krishnakant is listed in the Acknowledgements section at the front, while both ISKCON and the IRM's entries are listed next to each other in the body of the volume. Published by Facts on File, an award winning publisher for the school and library market, the Encyclopedia is edited by three of the world's leading scholars in the field: Dr. Constance A. Jones and Dr. James D. Ryan of the California Institute of Integral Studies; and Dr. Gordon Melton of the University of California, Santa Barbara and Director of the Institute for the Study of American Religion.

Here are extracts from the Encyclopedia which will be of specific interest to ISKCON devotees:

Bhaktivedanta, Swami A.C. Prabhupada
p. 77

"Since his death, the movement has diminished in size and has fragmented. On July 9, 1977, Bhaktivedanta Swami appointed 11 of his senior assistants to act as officiating priests (ritviks) to initiate all future ISKCON members on his behalf. After his death at Brindavan on November 14 that year, the appointees claimed they were in fact chosen as successor gurus, causing confusion and controversy within the movement. ISKCON members believe that Bhaktivedanta Swami still exerts his spiritual influence on anyone who follows his teachings, and that he remains a highly empowered devotee of their God, Krishna. Effigies of Bhaktivedanta Swami are installed in all ISKCON temples.

Today, in addition to ISKCON, a reform movement, the International Society for Krishna Consciousness Revival Movement (IRM), carries on the teaching of Bhaktivedanta Swami."

International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) (est. 1966)
p.199

"ISKCON grew rapidly in the 1970s and 1980s but has seen a recent decline in membership, attributed by some observers to the controversies surrounding the leadership succession after Bhaktivedanta's death and the creation of subsequent reform movements.
See International Society for Krishna Consciousness Revival Movement (IRM)."

International Society for Krishna Consciousness Revival Movement (IRM) (est. 2000), pp 199-200

"The ISKCON Revival Movement (IRM) was founded in 2000 as a pressure group to revive and reform ISKCON on the basis of an interpretation of the directives for succession given by Swami Prabhupada Bhaktivedanta (1896-1977), the founder of ISKCON.
According to IRM, the founder revealed [...] on July 9, 1977 a signed directive appointing 11 of his senior managers to act as ritviks (officiating priests) to initiate new recruits into the ISKCON movement on his behalf. According to IRM, all future disciples within ISKCON were supposed to revere Bhaktivedanta Swami as their guru, not any successor. However, shortly after Bhaktivedanta Swami's demise on November 14, 1977, these ritviks ignored the directive; instead, they divided the world into 11 zones, each claiming to be the guru or spiritual successor in a different area. By early 1978 the 11 ritviks had begun to initiate disciples on their own behalf, acting as gurus for the movement.
Over time, a number of the gurus suffered lawsuits, suicide, and other problems. The movement was plunged into confusion and acrimony. By the mid-1980s the Governing Body Commission (GBC), which managed ISKCON, issued a new interpretation of Bhaktivedanta Swami's directive. What he had really wanted, it said, was for all disciples to become initiating gurus, not just the 11 ritviks. Today new gurus are added to the roster via a majority vote by the GBC at its annual meetings in Mayapur. Currently ISKCON gurus number around 80.
IRM contends that both the zonal guru system and its replacement multiple-guru system are unauthorized innovations. Citing GBC resolutions and management directives approved by Bhaktivedanta Swami, the IRM insists that ISKCON will continue to flounder as long as it fails to comply with the orders of Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.
The IRM has grown quickly in the few years of its existence [...] It publishes an international magazine, Back to Prabhupada, and an electronic newsletter. They have also met with considerable opposition from those supporting the current multiple-guru system in ISKCON.
The IRM's followers consist of both current and former ISKCON members, ISKCON Life Members, and members of the Hindu community at large. The IRM's ultimate goal is to rebuild an ISKCON movement operating just as Bhaktivedanta Swami intended, with him as the sole guru and authority.
Further reading: Swami A.C. Bhaktivedanta Prabhupada, Bhagavad-gita As It Is (New York: BBT, 1972); Krishnakant Desai, The Final Order (London: Printed privately, 1996)."

GBC admits its gurus are source of ISKCON's spiritual decay

ISKCON has no intelligent class of men

His Grace Ravindra Svarupa Das:

"I also have my own views on the application of varnasrama-dharma, for I too have thought about the subject, but I assure you, that whatever I speak or write will not go uncontested by someone else in ISKCON. Nevertheless, I will venture here to propose the major reasons why ISKCON is having such a difficult time coming to grips with this matter. **The first and foremost is that ISKCON - I put it starkly - has no brain.**" (*ISKCON and* Varnasrama Dharma: *A Mission Unfulfilled*, GBC Chairman and voted-in guru Ravindra Svarupa Das, January 29th, 1999, emphasis added)

ISKCON GBC, *sannyasis* and gurus all disreputable

His Grace Ravindra Svarupa Das:

"And now the GBC has become very, very weak. The principal reason for this has been the fall-down of spiritual masters and the decay of spiritual authority in general. This applies to sannyasis, gurus and the GBC. There has been a big overlap of these three categories, and they are all in disrepute. The renounced order of life has come to be called the denounced order of life - we hear that all the time. People are very dubious about gurus - everyone is wondering when the next one is going to fall. And the GBC seems to be floundering and cannot do anything about it. There is a feeling that we do not know where our vision is going to come from." (GBC Chairman and voted-in guru Ravindra Svarupa Das, *ISKCON Communications Journal* #81, January/June 2000).

ISKCON's disintegration due to sins and offenses against Srila Prabhupada

His Grace Ravindra Svarupa Das:

"Therefore the question remains: What, then, will we do? How will we deal with our polarized and disintegrating society? [...] If we ask why ISKCON now finds itself in such an impossible position, we can only conclude that is must be due to the continuing reactions to our own sins and offenses. Thus, the GBC (and ISKCON) still needs to atone for its sins and its offenses, acknowledged and unacknowledged [...] So I have been baffled and in much distress. [...] Of course, now our offenses and sins against our children are foremost in mind, but these are just part of a larger pattern of offenses, ultimately to Prabhupada."

(GBC Chairman and voted-in guru Ravindra Svarupa Das, Letter posted on GBC conference, May 2000)

The Only Solution – WE MUST GO BACK TO PRABHUPADA

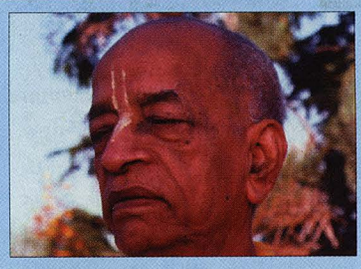
His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada:

"**They wanted to create artificially somebody *acarya* and everything failed.** [...] So better remain a foolish person perpetually to be directed by Guru Maharaja. That is perfection. And as soon as he learns the Guru Maharaja is dead, **"Now I am so advanced that I can kill my guru and I become guru." Then he's finished."** (Srila Prabhupada Conversation, August 16th, 1976, emphases added)



Ravindra Svarupa Das: Gives a perfect treatise on why ISKCON's gurus, and hence himself, are the source of ISKCON's spiritual demise

HDG A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada: ISKCON's only authorised initiating spiritual master



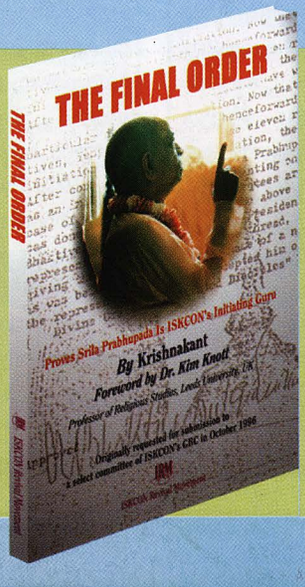
KNOW THE TRUTH:

The solution to all this ISKCON guru confusion is clearly explained in the book **"The Final Order".**

*To receive a **FREE** copy, please email us at:* irm@iskconirm.com

or fill out the enclosed reply card

or write to our address given on page 2.



THE BOOK THE GBC DOES NOT WANT YOU TO READ!

"I hope this book will be read carefully and discussed widely because the profound issues it raises demand consideration at all levels. Every devotee has a real stake in the matter."

From the Foreword by Professor Kim Knott, Head of Religious Studies, Leeds University, UK